



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

Another month gone and the year is flying by. Just when we think we've "weathered" all the storms of the year, we're faced with TWO late season hurricanes. At the very least, neither Sandy nor Tony visited Louisiana or the Gulf, so we breathed a sigh of relief. With some cool weather finally here, it feels like fall. Like football season!

As ever, this month's *Inside Scoop* is full of news and notes about all of your activities. It always does me good to read about what you are doing all over the state. We just had a training session here at central office, for our partners at DPS, and one of the things they remarked on repeatedly was the passion that our staff has for their jobs, and the dedication they show for our mission. It shows in everything we do – and we can showcase your activities and your passion and enthusiasm in our little newsletter. I'm always proud to be a part of this team and even more proud to show you off to colleagues throughout state government.

So, enjoy this issue, and keep the good news coming. OJJ, you rock!

"Doc"

Dr. Mary L. Livers



Do what
you must
do

Achievement is a matter of putting your mind to it and focusing your actions on it.

Anything is possible when you set your intention on making it happen.

There are always plenty of reasons why you can't get it done. Yet you can choose to do it anyway.

You can find a way. If one approach doesn't work, another one will.

Decide what you will do, and then do what you decide.

Life is too precious, and too filled with great possibilities, to settle for anything less.

Do what you must do until the goal is achieved.

You're smart and motivated and capable, so make it count for something meaningful.

Achievement is yours to do. So choose today to get it done.

— Ralph Marston

Staff Spotlight Spotlight on...



**PPS Gail
Wilson,
Monroe
Regional
Office**

PPS Gail Wilson wanted to work in law enforcement, and she discovered she enjoyed working with kids. With a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and a background as both a police officer and prison case manager, she had the knowledge and experience to have a good grasp on what she wanted to do. After some interesting side trails, Gail found a home with OJJ.

"Gail has been with the agency for about 17 years, and has worked in several of the regional offices, with the last 10 years being in Monroe," said Monroe RM Patty Newman. "Gail is caring and compassionate, and provides much support to the entire staff. She is one of the first to volunteer when there is a need, and will continue to ask what else is needed. Gail serves as the training officer, contract program liaison, firearms instructor, the *"Inside Scoop"* reporter for our office, and was a PPCT instructor for many years. She can be relied on to handle any assignment to completion, with attention to detail. She greets everyone with a smile, is always pleasant and a joy to be around. In addition, Gail has taken on the responsibility of being the office "morale booster." Every holiday, Gail surprises the staff with treats and snacks, and makes the season more fun and enjoyable. Aside from the holidays, Gail's office is always the source of fixes for chocolate attacks or snacks! We are extremely fortunate to have Gail on our team, as she has a way of making all of us feel special."

Gail is a native of the town of Sterlington, in Ouachita Parish, and a graduate of

Sterlington High School. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at ULM, then Northeast LA University, and went through the Police Academy, serving for ten years as a Shreveport police officer. She then served for a short stint as a treatment specialist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Texarkana. "I learned a lot, and gained a lot of experience. But that just wasn't for me." She went back to Monroe to earn her Masters degree in criminal justice at ULM, teaching part time in the Criminal Justice Department.

After receiving her Masters degree, Gail said, things just started to fall into place. She went to work for OCS (DCSF) as an adoption specialist, working with kids. "I really liked that - these kids had a lot of problems, they had lived through a lot, with their parents' rights terminated, many of them exhibited acting-out behaviors." She then worked in family support for a short time. "But I was very interested in working with kids, and I felt that I had gone too far in criminal justice to walk away from that," Gail continued. "At OJJ, probation officers work with the kids, we are part-time social workers, part-time law enforcement, and part-time parents. I didn't want a position that was too much social work and not enough action with the courts and delinquency issues. I was given an opportunity to do all that when I applied for a position in the Tallulah office." Gail remained in Tallulah until she transferred to the Natchitoches OJD office to accept a supervisor position. While she was in Natchitoches, Gail's father became seriously ill and she became engaged to a LA State Trooper in Troop F in Monroe. "I really wanted to return home to Monroe," Gail said. "God bless Carolyn Lewis for giving me a job. I owe her for that one!" Gail took a demotion, coming on as a probation officer, but eventually she was promoted once again to a supervisor position.

"I feel like I am meant to be here," Gail said. "There are experiences I will never forget - we have those days when we wonder what we're doing right, when you do everything

you can for a kid and he nosedives on you. Then, you think you have a kid that's going to be a tough case and something goes right. That youth becomes the star of the show - you never know."

"We burn every bridge that can be burned and try to build a new one before we recommend...a facility for our kids."

"People don't realize that the majority of our kids never see the inside of a secure facility," she went on. "But when people hear about our work, that's what they want to talk about - locking up the kids. We know that is the last resort; so few of our kids ever get there. We burn every bridge that can be burned and try to build a new one before we recommend that. OJJ is not just the secure facilities - we don't just lock up the kids and throw away the key. We can now offer the kids so many things right at home. The best thing that has happened over the years is the increase in community services. We are better able to provide for a youth's needs, and monitor the kids in the community, so they don't have to go to a lockdown. We have the tracker mentor system and BI (ankle monitors) to help keep an eye on the kids, and hold them more accountable, within the community. We can report their progress back to the courts, and not have to place kids in facilities just to keep track of them."

Gail said that to be successful with clients, "first of all you have to get to know the youth and their families. They are not going to open up to you until you make the effort to get to know them. They know you are the voice of the juvenile justice system, and kids are going to tell you whatever they think the judge wants to hear. We have access to counseling services, and we see these kids more than anyone else. We talk to them about their day,

how it went, whatever is going on in their school, their lives, their interests.”

“Don’t ever tell a kid you are going to do something and then don’t do it,” she continued. “You need to follow

through or you lose all credibility with these kids. We can’t always be their friend, but they do need to know they can trust you to do what you say you are going to do. That’s a two-way street, though. If you promise a kid a reward for good behavior, deliver. If you tell a kid continued negative behavior will lead to a court review or detention, make that happen too.”

“Our kids have so many issues at home,” Gail continued. “A lot of times, issues with kids show up in later years, after children were exposed to problems when they very young. Sometimes the kid is the issue, sometimes it’s the family. We are limited in what we can do with families. There may be barriers within the family that can affect the child.”

“And another thing,” Gail said. “If you don’t like kids, if you are judgmental against children, you are not going to make it. If you are going to do this job, you’ve got to have something invested in it or you are going to be miserable.”

“I am amazed at how different the OJJ offices are,” Gail noted. “The officers have been so good, everywhere I have been. The people, the atmosphere, I have loved every one of the three offices where I’ve served. I have friends in all three offices that I keep in contact with. I have really been blessed. And here in Monroe, I have an amazing group to supervise. They are my A-Team.”

Gail’s husband, Mark Wilson, is a retired state trooper. Her daughter, Katie Beach, is a criminal justice graduate of ULM, “like mama.” Katie is a legal assistant for a Monroe law firm, and the mother of Gail’s only grandchild, year-old Mila.

Gail and Mark are huge LSU fans and they attend all home games (tailgating all the way) and as many of the post-season bowl games as possible.

“Mark is known for his jalapeño corn dip,” Gail quipped, “it’s

“Don’t ever tell a kid you are going to do something and then don’t do it...or you lose all credibility...”

not a tailgate without it!”

Gail relates that she loves to read. “I get lost in the books,” she said. “My idea of a good day is to be home all day reading from dawn to dark. I like to cook and bake, too. I enjoy making cakes, pies, cookies. My husband is a cookie monster! I do a rum cake for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and everybody looks forward to them. I also have a special chocolate chip cookie recipe. I like to bake, but not to eat the goodies, so I bring everything up here to the office.”

“We love to go out and eat,” Gail said. “We enjoy movies, and I like to go on dates with my husband. We like to travel, when possible. We enjoy attending PGA golf tournaments and went to Indianapolis a few years ago for the Final Four. In January, we celebrated our ten-year anniversary with a seven-day cruise to Jamaica, Cozumel and the Cayman Islands.”

Gail loves cats. She recently lost Mike, a 32 pound yellow tabby named after the LSU Tiger. She now has two outside kitties. “My husband loves to fish, and I like to watch him fish,” she said. “We live on the bayou, and he fishes from the dock.”

“Oh, and I LOVE Christmas—I’m a Christmas-crazy person,” Gail said. “I put up our tree on Veterans Day, and I can’t wait. I love everything about Christmas—decorating, wrapping gifts, baking, going in the stores. Everyone is in a better mood at Christmas, except the grouchy shoppers. I finish my shopping by Thanksgiving. It’s my favorite time of year. We take the tree down the day after Christmas. That’s a routine. I’m old fashioned about the tree. Most of the

ornaments are family ornaments that were on our tree at Mama's house, or they are the ones that Katie made when she was little, the ones the kids make at school. I think I have every LSU ornament that's available. The star on the tree is one that I made when I was a senior in high school. It's glittered paper glued together. I graduated in 1974—that's how old the star is."

Gail says she hates scary movies, but every year for Halloween, her husband picks out a scary movie and she has to watch it with him. But the payback is that he has to watch Christmas movies with her...and he hates holiday movies!

Gail said she is planning to retire early next year - she is looking forward to what she is going to do with the other half of her life. She plans spend more time with her mother...and with that new grandchild - well, she is sure to find a lot of ways to occupy her time. Gail would like to travel, play a little golf, read a lot, and maybe even try painting. She is not counting down the days - there's still too much to do.

In the meantime, Gail will keep doing what she has been doing for almost 20 years - making sure that at-risk kids and their families receive the services they need to be successful, and meeting the mission every day.

Agency News

Dr. Livers Brings the OJJ Message to Community Groups

Dr. Livers was recently asked to present an overview of the Office of Juvenile Justice at local Baton Rouge Kiwanis clubs. She started her tour of clubs with the Red Stick Kiwanis Club. Kiwanis is a global



organization of volunteers founded in 1914 and dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. They were a fun group who enjoyed laughing and cutting up and were very appreciative of the information about OJJ and the kids we serve. They are a mission-driven service organization that really complements OJJ and all that we do.

H. Isaac pulls OJJ Together

OJJ is a cohesive organization in the best of times, but when potential problems arise, such as an impending hurricane, our agency really shines. The entire agency got behind the effort when we evacuated the youth and staff from Bridge City to shelter at Jetson, with staff from all over the agency doing whatever it took, for however long necessary, to make everything work. Following is a photo gallery of activities that show staff and youth going above and beyond the call of ordinary duty.



Dr. Livers, center, with youth who made sandbags to keep water from entering low buildings at Jetson.



Above and below, the command center at Jetson buzzed with activity as staff reported in, got their orders, and carried out their duties.



An unused Southern University dorm served as a bunkhouse for BCCY staff who evacked with the youth to take care of them at Jetson.



The SU dorm needed a lot of TLC to make it habitable. The CQIS staff along with Chef Sonnier and other central office staff wielded mops, brooms, and gallons of bleach. All in a day's work! Above, Chef Sonnier demonstrates his mopping technique. Left, Ellyn Toney wields a broom, while, right, Lynne

Geromini mixes bleach.



These gorgeous pink flowers were found by Tallulah OJJ AC3 Martha Hattaway and her son, who took the picture, at Lake Saline, in Saline, LA. If anyone can identify this plant, please contact your Inside Scoop editor at jerel.giarrusso@la.gov.

CQIS Policy Updates

The following policies were issued for the months of August and September 2012:

- A.1.16 Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice Award
- A.2.12 Personnel Records
- A.2.41 Verification of Credentials
- A.2.44 Off Duty Employees Not Allowed on Facility Grounds
- A.2.48 Driver Safety Program
- A.2.60 Domestic Violence
- A.3.1 Asset Management
- A.3.12 Issuance of Clothing Inventory
- A.5.9 Social Networking
- A.5.11 Video Conferencing
- B.7.1 Education Policy
- C.1.18 Facility Tours

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to members of the OJJ family who have recently lost family members. Please keep these staff members in your thoughts and prayers.

Bridge City **Administrative Assistant Ina Anderson** recently lost her sister, Mary Ann Dillon, age 46.

Jetson **JJS Frances Bailey** has had another death in the family. She recently lost another

brother, Eric Trask, in a car accident. This is the third death in her family in the last several months. She lost her father in April, her youngest brother in July, and Eric in August. Frances and her family are having a very difficult time, and they are asking for prayers from the OJJ family.

Heartfelt condolences to **Peggy (Norris) Blount**, CQIS/central office who recently lost her sister, Julia Beebe.

Bridge City Program Coordinator-Social Services **Charmaine Jones'** sister, Judy Taylor, has passed away.

Metro Region Administrative Supervisor **Earnessa Monciffe** recently lost her mother, Annie L. Monciffe

Tallulah **PPO Janet Pierce** recently lost her husband, Calvin.

Bridge City Training and Development Specialist **Susan Taylor's** mother-in-law, Hilda Howes Taylor, passed away.

Alexandria Regional Office

Alexandria OJJ Care for Evacuees

The city of Alexandria was the site of a major shelter operation for people who evacuated the coastal area ahead of Hurricane Isaac. Staff from the Alexandria office put in many hours assisting the shelter staff and evacuees.

Dr. Livers received a letter from state representative **Chris Hazel**, who thanked OJJ staff for their efforts at the LSU-A Ag Center Mega-Shelter.

"I commend you and your diligent staff who worked tirelessly to provide shelter, entertainment, medical care, clothing and food to the evacuees who found themselves in Alexandria," he wrote. "Were it not for their selfless dedication and hard work, this shelter

would not have been such a success for those families who found themselves in harm's way.

The individuals working at the shelter contributed countless hours, many despite difficulties they may have been experiencing with their own families during this disaster.

I am extremely proud to represent central Louisiana and consider the caring and professional efforts exhibited at the Alexandria shelter to be the benchmark for all other shelters around the state."



RM Johnny Qualls speaks with Azar Kayal of DPS at the LSUA Shelter. Also pictured are Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne and Captain Kenneth Moore.



Robert Harris

PPOs Robert Harris and Justin Guidry work on setting up cots at the LSUA Hurricane Shelter. RM Johnny Qualls, PPS John Baker and PPO Trinity Adams also assisted with setting up over 2,000 cots in preparation for H. Isaac.



Justin Guidry



Left, PPO Heath Wallace, and right, PPS Donna Desoto, working in the warehouse.



PPOs Frank Parrino and Robert Harris serving meals.

PPS Donna Desoto modeled western wear at the recent "Cabrini Threads 2012 Fashion Show." Donna is a cancer survivor and is proud to take part in this special benefit event.

PP02 Brian Charles recently transferred to Lafayette OJJ. Brian will be greatly missed and we wish him the very best.



Congratulations to **Adm. Coordinator Cassaundra Conston's** grandson, **Caybren Conston**, for receiving Student of the Week honors in his Pre-K class. As a reward for his accomplishment, Caybren was allowed to have his father read his favorite book at school.

The Alexandria OJJ office is being renovated. The conference room is being extended and the clerical area, along with several offices, is being made into private offices. We look forward to seeing the final outcome.

Baton Rouge Regional Office

Baton Rouge OJJ was in full swing with the beginning of a new school year for the youth we serve. PPOs were busy moving about making sure that the youth on our caseload had all that they needed to begin the school year on the right foot. We even sent a few of our own kids off to begin their new journey either to college, high school or for some, the dreaded middle school years. We wished all the kids the very best this school year and we hope to talk about all their success throughout the year.

Congratulations



We would like to congratulate **Marina Jenkins** on her promotion.

Congratulations, **PPS Jenkins**, we wish you the best of luck!

Employee of the Month

PPO Keelen Robinson was selected by his peers as August Employee of the Month. He is always willing to help both in the office and in his community. Keelen spends his workday working with the youth on his caseload, trying to make a difference in their lives, and then after hours he is the defensive line coach for the Baton Rouge Bears. Keelen, we want to say thank you for all that you do!



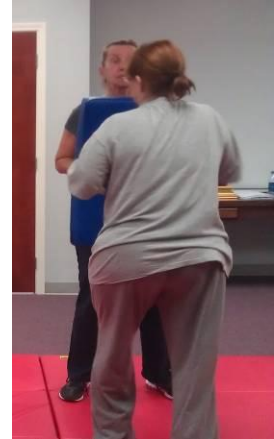
Trainings Attended

PPOs Elois Nelson, Tina Roach and Keondra Riley attended the 32nd Annual Governor's Conference held in the Capital City. The conference was awesome! The topics were great and we walked away with a wealth of knowledge to assist us in continuing to meet the mission. We hope all of the visitors from the other regions had as much fun and learned as much as we did.

Our new PPCT Instructor, **PPO Darla Hood**, conducted her first 8 hour refresher course. Congratulations, Darla, on a job well done!



PPCT training - above, Instructor PPO Darla Hood, center, demonstrates a move. Bottom left, PPO Naomi Rodney and PPO Katina Broden. Bottom right, PPO Patsy Adams and PPS Marina Jenkins during PPCT training.



September was filled with trainings and meetings here in the Baton Rouge Office. Along with our monthly staff meeting we had lots of training, including "Moving the Margins," "LaMod" and "Motivational Interviewing," and various other safety topics. We also hosted our semi-annual SAVRY training with staff members from the Department of Juvenile Services. We gathered to discuss our test case, "Matt Blake," we discussed appropriate scoring and worked together to hash out the best case plan for our hypothetical youth. We were glad to have DJS participate with us and welcome them back in the future.

SSC Jennifer Anderson attended the Women Working in Corrections Conference in Arkansas and returned beaming with excitement about her experiences, and the wealth of knowledge she gained at the conference.

RM Michelle Thomas hosted an informational meeting to discuss a program already serving several parishes in the state called "Dropout Recovery Program." This program is a free, online educational program that assists kids who have dropped out of school or been expelled, to receive their high school diploma. The program provides the internet and computers, so all the youth has to do is be willing to give at least 20 hours a week to their education. They will also receive an online mentor who will track their success and a local advocate who will assist the youth

in person. This program may work perfectly for some of the youth we serve, giving the youth in the community a chance they thought they would never have again.

Shout Out

The Baton Rouge Office would like to send a special shout-out to all of our PPOs and Transport Officers who assisted during the storm in any way. We appreciate the sacrifice that you all made to make sure that everyone was safe and had a place to go during the storm.

We finished off the month like many of you around the state, dealing with Hurricane Issac! We are very thankful that everyone here in the Baton Rouge Office fared well during the storm and we are glad to have everyone back in the office and doing well. We continue to pray for those of our fellow co-workers in St. John Parish and Plaquemines Parish for the damage and loss that many of them suffered. We wish you all the best and will continue to be here for you during the rebuilding process.

Ribbon Cutting for Youth Services Center

RM Michelle Thomas, along with several city and state officials, including **Mayor-President Kip Holden**, **District Attorney Hillar Moore**, **EBR Sheriff Sid Gautreaux**, **State Police Colonel Mike Edmundson**, and many, many others, attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Family and Youth Services Center (FYSC) in Baton Rouge. This family, youth and truancy center was designed to reduce juvenile crime and truancy by being a one stop shop for wraparound services in the East Baton Rouge community. This facility encompasses a Truancy Assessment and Service Center, The Mayor's Office of Juvenile Services, the District Attorney's Juvenile and Truancy Coordinator, East Baton Rouge Parish School Drug Task Force, East Baton Rouge School System's Children, Welfare, and Attendance Unit, the

Department of Children and Family Services and the Capital Area Health Services.

RM Michelle Thomas attended a stakeholders meeting for the Baton Rouge Area Violence Elimination (BRAVE) Project. This program is designed to reduce the crime rate in the zip code 70805, which makes up a large portion of the crime in EBR Parish. The BRAVE Project seeks out the individuals who are living a life of crime and introduces them to a better way of living by offering substance abuse programs, mentoring, and job training to eliminate the idea that drugs and violence are acceptable.

Happy Birthday



The Baton Rouge Office sent a special birthday shout-out to our **Regional Manager Michelle Thomas!** Happy Birthday RM Thomas and we wish you the very best!



We sent a special birthday wish to PPO1 **Teleisha Johnson** - it has been a pleasure having you on the Baton Rouge team.

We See You and You're Looking Good

PPO Yolonda Latimer recently purchased a pair of cleats for one of the juveniles on her caseload so that he could play in a football game that evening. Yolonda also was a huge help in bridging the gap between a youth's family and Capital Area Mental Health Services to make sure that the youth received an assessment and services that were needed to get appropriate medication and treatment for school. PPO Latimer, we see you and you're looking good!

PPS Marina Jenkins attended the East Feliciana Drug Council meeting. This is a

monthly meeting that teaches job training skills to the youth in East Feliciana and provides summer jobs for those in the program, as well as community events for youth. PPS Jenkins, we see you and you're looking good!

Transport Officer Gerard Landry continues to give back to his community daily by coaching a little league football team in Ascension Parish after work and on the weekends. Transport Officer Landry, we see you and you're looking good.

Thanks, Y'all, for going above and beyond to make a difference both on and off the job!

Bridge City Center for Youth

This poem was created by **JJS3 Carmelia Gray**, a new staff member who graduated from the orientation class in October.

Pre-Service Class #7 Graduation Poem

My co-worker, my friends, my partners, my
kin
We're here together
No matter what, to the end
What an experience it has been
To meet and to greet
You all have faith
Knowing we all bring different traits
So what a difference we shall all make
Our love, patience, and dedication
Whatever it takes, we'll be their medication
In our souls and our hearts
We are coming to do the best job that we've
been taught
Coming out strong to make a difference
Standing strong is the issue
Up for all and ready for everything
The kids are our future
We shall share their dreams
So we are that class and that team
Coming eleven strong
Bringing in our own
We'd like to say thank you for
Welcoming us to your home.



The new class, from left, Nerissa Cole, LaMod Coordinator; Instructor Javand Duhon; Runiaja Vicksbrown, Eric Whitley, Mary-Francis Black, Lance Daniels, Interim-Assistant Director; Shanita James, Ashley Bashful, Carmelita Gray, Shantell Thomas, Paul Gordon, Harlan Davis, Rahmir Pierce, Rethia Harris and Deputy Director Darrell Foster.

Congratulations on Passing the GED

Schlomo S. of Harmony Dormitory and **Shiloh F.** of Pride Dormitory recently passed the GED exam. These gentlemen studied long hours to reach this goal. Both youth Schlomo S. and Shiloh F. are excited about taking advantage of post high school level academic programs offered by OJJ. *Congratulations, Gentlemen, job well done!*



Schlomo S.



Shiloh F.

Culinary Arts News

By Chef Ron Sonnier

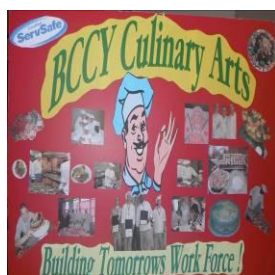
Recently the students and I were asked to prepare the snacks for the afternoon break for the Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice. It was really a great pleasure to get a chance to visit with so many of you again this year. Thanks to **Ronnie Rossito** from the

Calcasieu Parish DA's office for allowing us to participate and helping with the expenses. The students are truly appreciative of the new chef uniforms they wore, and they really enjoyed themselves. It gave them a real, true feeling about what this business is all about - pleasing people.

We also had the opportunity to host the ACA Pep Rally for all the BCCY employees, in the Culinary Arts classroom. The cafeteria staff, student Culinarians and I prepared a great luncheon for the employees and many door prizes were given away. Everyone commented on how much fun it was and they really enjoyed their day.



At the Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice from left, Deputy Director Darrell Foster, Culinarians Rondell S., Kendrick W., Lamont R., Larry W., Christopher T., Elijah N. and Chef Ron Sonnier.



This poster, displayed at the conference, shows all the aspects of the Culinary Arts Program at BCCY.



Garnishing is a very important part of Culinary Arts. The food prepared by the Culinary Arts students was spectacular for the ACA Pep Rally.



Student Culinarians Elijah N. and Joshua D., along with Chef Ron Sonnier, help serve food at the ACA Pep Rally luncheon.



The dining room in Culinary Arts was set and ready to go for the ACA pep rally.



SSD Teachers' Aide Shirley Robinson, along with many others, enjoyed winning door prizes at the ACA pep rally luncheon.



At the ACA pep rally luncheon, everyone said the food was great, and they enjoyed the opportunity to sit and visit with fellow employees.

Central Office

Welcome to Our New Attorney

OJJ welcomed a new attorney with outstanding qualifications and experience. **J. Marston Fowler** comes to OJJ from the Division of Administrative Law where he served as an Administrative Law Judge. At OJJ he handles employment issues, ethics and legal representation for the agency. Marston has private practice experience in a variety of civil law areas. He is a graduate of South Texas College of Law in Houston, and holds a Bachelor of Science in management from Tulane University, A.B. Freeman School of Business, in New Orleans. Marston and his wife, Jennifer, are the parents of a year-old son, Henry. He admits to being a "die-hard" Saints fan. "We are very pleased to have Marston on our team," said **General Counsel Martha Morgan**. "OJJ is fortunate to have attracted an attorney of his caliber. With his background, Marston was able to hit the ground running. He has already proven to be an integral member of our legal staff, and we look forward to many years of service."



Central Office Training Presented

By Fran Martin, Director of Staff Development

Staff Development meetings are scheduled several times each year to provide information and updates on training and development issues and to plan future training events.

Unit Training Officers from all regional offices and Training and Development Specialists from all facilities attended a meeting at central office in September. Central office staff shared their expertise with the group on several topics.

Keeya Smith, CPTP Training Coordinator for Community-Based Services, explained revisions to the CPTP program, including new supervisor training requirements and the improved scheduling process.

OJJ Attorney Marston Fowler reviewed a new requirement for annual training by December of each year for all state employees on the Code of Governmental Ethics. OJJ will offer training with Marston, or through an online class on LEO, to meet this requirement.

Trainers shared lots of ideas and news on training and development activities for their staff. Plans were finalized for training initiatives, including the American Heart Association training for CPR/First Aid Instructors, E-Learning online staff training and the annual Training Advisory Council meeting. Small groups worked together to revise orientation and annual training guidelines for OJJ staff.

Revisions to training requirements are an ongoing process, due to changes in OJJ policy, ACA requirements, the Office of Risk Management (ORM), and any other state regulations and guidelines. Updates were also provided on several other areas including Safe Crisis Management, PPCT, Moving the Margins, TREC and the Mental Health

Training Curriculum for Juvenile Justice. The next staff development meeting is scheduled for February 2013.

Annual Training Conducted for CO Staff

Training sessions designed to meet annual training requirements were held at Central Office in September for all central office staff.

Several topics were presented by central office staff, including a PREA Update by **Chief of Operations Ellyn Toney**, Mandatory Reporting of Abuse and Neglect by **General Counsel Martha Morgan** and **Attorney Steven Farber**, and Staff-Youth Relationships and Social Networking by **Steven Farber**. I shared an update on staff development activities.

Staff also learned about revisions to the Louisiana Travel Guidelines from **Tammy Toups** of the Louisiana State Travel Office. Tammy shared tips and suggestions for state employees during trips, as well as humorous stories of travel adventures.

Staff completed a Training Needs and Evaluation Survey during the session. Information from the survey will help in planning training and development activities to better meet the needs of staff.

Congratulations to Staff Parents

It's not often that we are able to recognize our parents for their accomplishments, but **Suzie Durrett, LA Deputy Administrator for the Juvenile Interstate Compact**, shared the news about her parents' milestone wedding anniversary – 64 years! Suzie's parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Horace Wilkinson** of Baton Rouge, were married in 1948, and had to have two ceremonies, one in the Catholic Church in Germany and a civil ceremony for the U.S. Army. "Dad is 88 and Mom is 86," Suzie said. "Mom was born in the Czech Republic, and they met in Germany where my father was an officer in the Army, and my mom

worked as a secretary. Dad is from Liberty, MS. They have four children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. We had a celebration to honor them at my home in Zachary with family and close friends." *Photo below of the Hamilton family.*



Hammond Regional Office

Although they were located in areas affected by Hurricane Isaac, several staff members from Hammond OJJ offered assistance during the storm. **PPS Johnny Prentice** readied the office for the oncoming hurricane. **PPO3 Amy Johnson** and **PPO3 Penny Buniff** volunteered at a local shelter. **PPO3 Dana May** and **PPO2 Denise Wall** worked a shift at Jetson. Thank you for going above and beyond!

PPO3 Wendy Clark attended the Trafficking Hope Volunteer training at Healing Place Church in Baton Rouge. The training was presented by TraffickingHope.org, a non-profit organization that fights human trafficking. Wendy plans to volunteer with them to help build the Hope House of Louisiana for Girls. She will also attend two to three trainings a month for four months to certify as a counseling mentor for the girls.

Staff Attend Northshore Ribbon Cutting

Northshore Technical College recently celebrated the move to their new campus in Greensburg. Attending the ribbon cutting ceremony were **Dr. Mary Livers, Asst. Secretary Sean Hamilton, RD Carolyn**



Lewis, RM Sue Larisey and SSC4 Lori Wagner. Pictured cutting the ribbon is **Dean Sharon Hornsby.** Dean Hornsby and Hammond OJJ have partnered, through a grant from the MacArthur Foundation, to

help ten youth further themselves in their educational process. These youth were at risk of dropping out of school. Several have not only earned their GEDs but have also earned certificates in various trades.

Jetson Center for Youth

**JCY Outstanding Achievement
4 GED Certificates in 2 Weeks**

**Youth Wesley P.,
Youth Raynell B.,
Youth Kyle L., and
Youth Kristian R.**



From left: Kyle L., Wesley P. and Raynell B.; Kristian R. has been released.

A record has been set at Scenic Alternative High School. Four students received their GEDs in two weeks. This news is encouraging to the teaching staff and to the other students, as they are striving to achieve the skills which will result in a GED.

The four students were **Kristian R., Kyle L., Wesley P.** and **Raynell B.** They are the buzz of the campus with lots of shout-outs. Two of the students are now enrolled in the automotive vocational course taught by **Instructor Ronnie Frioux.** They are very proud and are happy to let their Judge know about their success.

They become our first graduates of the school year 2012-2013 and will celebrate at a graduation ceremony in June 2013. Hats off for a job well done!

Four graduates in two weeks is great, but hold on to your seat! Scenic Alternative High School has two more students, **Daniel M.,** and **Monteco F.,** waiting for their results of the GED exam they took in October. They are anxious to see if they passed - even though they think they did, proof will come when the results are in.

We hope you are sitting down when you read this paragraph! There are EIGHT, yes eight, more students waiting to be scheduled to take the exam. Four will go at the end of October and the others will be scheduled as soon as the judges' approval is received. The scholars in waiting are **Joel F., Joe C., Kyle R., Aaron B., Travontae W., Jonathan S., Jamal V.,** and **Daniel P.** Two other students, **Emanuel R.** and **Durrell J.,** have taken the exam and passed some of the parts, and are studying to retake the exam.

This is an exciting time for the education staff as we all work very hard to encourage the students to learn skills that are necessary for their success on the GED exam. All of the dorms have GED study guides available for students to work on assignments in the evenings. Some of the GED graduates actually tutor other students during this time.

They all know that this is important to their successful life in the world of work and in the world of life.

We are so very proud of all of the students and staff at Jetson for encouraging the students to do their best each and every day. This team work is paying off for the students. We continue to strive to raise the achievement of all of our students.

‘Rolling Out A New Direction’ at Scenic Alternative High School

Scenic’s Back to School program for youth and staff was held in October. The entire program was conducted by students except for the keynote speaker, **Judge Pamela Taylor Johnson**.

The gym was decorated in bright colors and symbols of construction such as paint rollers, paint buckets, brick walls under construction. This theme speaks to the mission and vision of OJJ. We are in the business of remodeling the behavior of our youth so they have an opportunity to become productive, law-abiding citizens.

Judge Johnson was very effective in her remarks. She spoke of a new beginning, a new outlook, and a bright future. She emphasized that change is hard work, but it is possible to become the person that you are capable of becoming. She was very complimentary of the work of the Jetson staff. After her presentation, the judge had her picture taken with several youth who are under her supervision.



We presented Judge Johnson with a thank-you certificate for taking time to visit and speak to the youth. The students were very interested in what she had to say.

Garden Certificate Ceremony at Scenic Alternative High School

Southern University Agriculture Center has a partnership with Scenic Alternative High School. This partnership was organized under the leadership of **Ms. Stephanie Elwood** of Southern. The idea was developed to engage the Fast Track students in a hands-on gardening experience. Twice a week, for three hours, the students are escorted to the gardening field to complete tasks required.

The students planted a variety of vegetables for a summer crop. They started with planting the seeds, pulling weeds, watering and then harvesting. This year’s crop was a bumper crop of cucumbers. In fact, they grew enough cucumbers to share with the cafeteria and serve them to the other students.

The cumulating activity was the certificate ceremony in which the students received their Garden Certificate. The celebration was a huge success as the students take pride in receiving recognition.

Ms. Elwood, Extension Associate, has already begun to prepare for the fall planting. The students are looking forward to this garden, as the weather will be wonderful. It will be nice to be outside during the cool mornings of fall.

Good luck to the students when they are hard at work growing, weeding, watering, and harvesting the next big surprise crop.

Adm. Asst. Anne Carter to Enter Convent



Longtime OJJ **Administrative Assistant Anne Carter** has recently left Jetson, where she most recently served as

administrative assistant at Scenic Alternative High School, to fulfill a lifelong dream. She is preparing to

enter a convent to become a nun (sister). Anne has served at Bridge City, once before at Jetson in the Area 3 Director's office, and at central office, before returning to Jetson.

In seeking an order where she could live a religious life, Ann located a religious community in Arkansas that will allow her to go through the process of becoming a sister and to live a life of service to others. She has been accepted at the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters' Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Anne will soon move into the convent, where she will live and study for several years, going through the process of aspirancy and pre-candidacy; postulancy and candidacy; novitiate; first vows and final vows. We wish Anne all the best as she makes the transition to a religious life of service.

Yarn Art was the Big Seller at the Governor's Conference



Students Mel, Evan, Nick, Kyle, Jeremy, Rashad and Brett, show off some of their string art, the hit of the show at the Governor's Conference.

Students and teachers in Sunset Classroom had a big task to fulfill. They stepped up to the plate and got the project completed. In fact, they not only completed the project but also made the most money at the auction held at the Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice in August.

How did this happen? This is how the story goes! **Assistant Director Fouad Harb** asked **Instructor Denise Clause** if she would be willing to develop an art project by Sunset Dorm youth to be displayed at the Governor's Conference. This request came at the end of June and was to be ready for display by the first week in August.

The art teacher at Scotlandville High School was contacted to see what ideas she could suggest. The sample shared by Scotlandville High School was "yarn art." This project could be completed with glue, foam board and safety scissors.

Once that decision was made, it was all hands on deck. The project was extremely tedious for both the students and the teachers! Students learned that patience is a definitely a virtue. The students decided to do Louisiana scenes with the exception of "Hello, Kitty" and the Miami Heat. They were able to choose their scene design. The choices were magnolias, a Catahoula hound, brown pelicans, Mardi Gras masks, LSU Tigers and the state flag.

The initial step was to draw the design on foam board and choose colored yarn. A wide variety of yarn was available. Other texture supplies were available for use such as glitter, seashells, and rhinestones.



The students spent many, many weeks slowly but steadily working on their projects, cutting various lengths of yarn and using glue to secure them to the foam board. Several students were not happy with their work and ripped the yarn off and began again. Soon each project was completed and

framed with paper to enhance the beauty of the art. *Pictured here is the Catahoula hound.*

The students learned that their work would be SOLD at the Governor's Conference and became very possessive of their work. They had completed beautiful yarn art and had to be coaxed into letting the art be sold.

According to participants of the conference, the art was a huge success! In fact, all the art pieces received bids and several pieces brought a hefty sum.

After the conference, **Director Angela Sutton** came to the classroom to inform the youth that all of the art had been sold and the amounts ranged from \$25 to \$45 each. The keynote speaker at the conference was from the Miami area and purchased the "Miami Heat" art work to present to the Miami team.

Ms. Clause celebrated the students' hard work and dedication by having an ice cream sundae party. Each student chose their toppings for their sundaes, and they were very creative.

Students to be recognized are **Mel, Evan, Nick, Jack, Kyle, Joseph, Isaiah, Jeremy, Rashad and Brett**. Staff to be recognized are **Instructors Denise Clause, Ms. Alexander, Mr. McClinton and Dr. Todd Terminie** of SSD. Ms. Clause has pictures of the art work on the bulletin board.

Principal Ronnie Knox thanked the students and staff for the hard work and for their dedication to accepting the challenge for this special request. We are very proud to be recognized at such an important event!

An African Safari in Louisiana Scenic Alternative High School

By Instructor Denise Clause

October 4 is a date to remember. That is the date of the first field trip taken by youth residing in the Sunset dormitory. The youth and staff enjoyed a visit to the Global Wildlife

Center in Folsom, Louisiana. **Sunset Teacher Denise Clause** organized and orchestrated a wonderful trip for seven youth and seven chaperones.

The chaperones were **Director Angela Sutton, JJS Micon Gaines, JJS Reginald Robinson, JJS Jamar Ficklin, instructors Pamela Lodge, Felicia Gibson and Denise Clause**.

Global Wildlife Center is a natural setting that has over 30 species of animals that intermingle peacefully as they roam freely over 900 acres of land. The group took a guided wagon safari tour in which the tour guide educated us through hands-on-experiences. What an experience it was for our youth!



Isaiah T. and Melvin C.

As soon as the wagon started the tour, a rather large and overwhelming group of antelope, zebras, Pere David deer, bison, giraffes, cattle, camels and llamas gathered around our wagon looking for a handout of feed.

The youth were in awe as they eagerly started feeding the animals from our large bucket of feed. One of the large antelope immediately "stole" **Melvin's** cup as well as the feed. There was much laughter and joy coming from our area of the wagon!



Isaiah T. and friend

The chaperones were having as much fun as the youth. Pamela Lodge was running up and down the aisle gathering as much feed as possible to distribute to all the hungry critters.



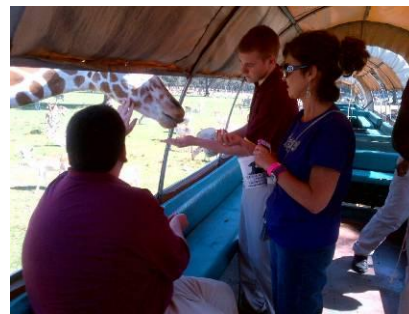
Ms. Lodge and Isaiah T.

Evan D. was resistant at first, he just wanted to watch the others, but with staff encouragement, he too was soon hand feeding the animals. Being able to touch and pet the animals made the safari more of an amazing experience (all but the zebras, which were just too feisty). The giraffe's fur was so soft and some of the antelope had such l-o-n-g tongues and very big teeth! All of the animals were very gentle. Some of the antelope were very playful as they clashed their antlers for dominance. Because of the size of the savanna, we had the opportunity to witness many animals running. The sight of a giraffe running appears to be in slow motion and is a sight to behold.



Denise Clause and Evan D.

After our tour, we enjoyed a picnic lunch in the gazebo and spent time watching oversized koi and catfish swim lazily in the pond. The youth enjoyed feeding the fish as well. We stopped in the gift shop to visit a beautiful blue Macaw and then posed for pictures in the pumpkin patch.



Joseph V., Kyle L. and Denise Clause

There is so much more to a field trip than just letting the youth have a day away from campus. Youth are provided an opportunity to practice social skills, interact with the public appropriately, use good table manners and learn through real-life experiences. It's also beneficial for the youth to have the opportunity to interact with staff in a relaxed, different environment.



Left, Joseph V., and right, baby deer.



Joshua C.

A special thanks to Director Sutton for believing in our youth and trusting that we will do our very best to have a safe and enjoyable trip. The youth were so well-behaved; they rose to the expectations that were set prior to leaving campus. The youth were very appreciative and are anxious to start writing their stories about their adventure and to see the many pictures that were taken on the trip!

Yes, this is a date to remember!

Hooping it Up!



Director Angela Sutton won the Hula Hoop Contest at the recent CCS Appreciation and Wellness Fair. Other participants in the contest were CCS staff who succumbed early in the contest. Family Liaison Donna Bowie and Director Sutton battled for the prize. Family Liaison Bowie, left, allowed Director Sutton to win on her home turf.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Congratulations

In August after an extensive five-year formation program, **PPO3 Denis LaCroix** received the sacrament of Holy Orders when he was ordained a Permanent Deacon for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lafayette by **Bishop Michael Jarrell**.

PPO2 Jamie Moore is pleased to announce that her client, **Tre' L.**, graduated from the National Guard's Youth Challenge Program. Way to go, Tre'!

Community Service

PPO Kevin Broussard volunteered at the 12th annual Games of Acadiana. The Games is a yearly event to raise money for Miles Perret Cancer Services, which provides support for families suffering with cancer. These services are provided free-of-charge, and the non-profit Miles Perret Center relies on donations for funding. Games of Acadiana is one of the main sources of funding for the center.

PPO Rhonda Gallet is actively involved in Faith House, is a non-profit organization that helps abused women and children. Rhonda is continuing to accept donations of school supplies and she delivers them to Faith House.

Our Officers Go the Extra Mile for Kids and Families

The probation officers in Lafayette have been working diligently to assist clients so that they receive the most appropriate services. **PPO Cassandra Brown** made a referral for inpatient substance abuse treatment for **Regis J.** and he entered the program in September, where he remained at his full term date in October.

PPO Jimmy Guidry made arrangements for **Cody W.**, who was in secure care, to attend a Youth Challenge Program interview. Cody received his acceptance letter in September and began YCP in October. Jimmy assisted in this process, though Cody W. full termed in October. We hope this will help Cody succeed and become a productive citizen.

PPO Chris Leblanc completed a MST referral for a family who is not and has never been supervised by OJJ, at the request of the ADA, in hopes of getting the family services that will keep them out of the court system.

PPO Wanda Sylvester helped **CL A.**, who was recently released from secure care, attend a YCP interview. He was accepted into the program for October. Wanda also purchased some of CL's personal items needed to attend YCP.

PPO Ronald Rogers recently had a client waiting to enter YCP, but had to enter regular school for several days prior to starting the program. The family did not have a school uniform for her. After speaking with the principal about this case and other issues, he was informed that there was a place in New Iberia that donated uniforms to students. Ronald left the school and traveled to the store, where he was able to get a uniform for the girl, allowing her to attend school for a few days while waiting for YCP.

PPO Teresa Fruge' has two brothers on probation who experienced a house fire the weekend before school started and lost everything. Teresa and **PPS Beth Broussard** assisted this family by linking them to resources in the community to assist with clothing, food and housing.

PPO Ashley Laborde has a client in need of a positive after school program. Ashley did some research of the Lafayette area and found the Ragin' Cajun Amateur Boxing Club. The club likes to work with at-risk juveniles and makes sure they maintain a C average in school. The club goes on trips out of state and

also has famous people in sports give presentations for the kids. This is a program that will not only be beneficial for Ashley's client but will be able to be utilized by other officers in the area.

PPO3 Chase Cappel organized a Parent Empowerment Network meeting on a Saturday in October at the Lafayette OJJ Office. **Family Liaison Donna Bowie** presented the topic "Getting the Most Out of OJJ Probation." Officers hand-delivered flyers to parents in Opelousas and Lafayette and St. Martin Parishes. We look forward to future meetings and finding ways to empower parents and families.

Training Attended

PPO Nick Landry and **PPO Ronald Rogers** attended the Colorful Side of Mental Health Seminar in Lake Charles.

Several trainings were conducted in the Lafayette office in September and October. We appreciate the time and extra effort put into the trainings and want to say thank you to **PPO Jamie Baronet** who led a three-day LAMOD training; **PPS Tracy Flores** and **PPO3 Chris Leblanc**, who led SAVRY Booster Training; **PPS Tracy Flores** who led training on Motivational Interviewing and **Social Worker Claude Devillier** who led training on Moving the Margins and a Mental Health Refresher.

Success Makes it All Worthwhile

Several of our clients have had some very exciting accomplishments. One such client was **Daniel F.** He earned an early release from Acadiana Marine Institute in September. Daniel has his GED, driver's license and is registered with the Selective Service. Daniel is also registered to vote and will be casting his very first vote in the 2012 Presidential election. Daniel is currently employed as a fulltime deck hand on an offshore rig. Daniel and his family fully cooperated with the program at AMI. Daniel was at AMI for a

little over a year and did not have a single write-up while at the facility. Daniel's mother participated in family sessions and staffings in person at the facility. His family was present for every visitation day and Daniel went home for every home pass allowed.

Due to Daniel's outstanding work and dedication to completing the program, his family's love and support and **PPO3 Chase Cappel's** perseverance, Daniel was released early and is now a productive citizen in his community. Congratulations, Daniel, and we look forward to seeing what you will accomplish in the future!

We Are All Part of the Same Team!

PPS Robert Guirard, PPO3 Denis Lacroix and **PPO3 Chase Cappel** recently assisted **Program Specialist Karli Pullard** with a facility audit at Acadiana Marine Institute. This is yet another example of the abundance of teamwork in the Lafayette OJJ office.

With Hurricane Isaac came the need for OJJ volunteers. Lafayette OJJ staff stepped up to help in true OJJ fashion. When called on, every PPO responded by either going out to assist at food stamp shelters or helping out with clients and attending court for the PPOs who were out of the office assisting others.

Times like these bring staff together in ways that we sometimes overlook in our normal routine. Thank you to all staff at OJJ who responded and stepped up to help out.

Congratulations...

...to **PPO Tashana Boyd** and family on the birth of a healthy baby boy.

There were several October birthdays in the Lafayette Region. Happy Birthday to **PPS Beth Broussard, PPO3 Michelle Deshotel, PPO3 Joellen Frilot** and **PPO1 Renia Smith**.

Lake Charles Regional Office

We welcomed our new **Regional Director, Mr. Johnny Qualls**, and we appreciated his visit to our office to introduce himself to the staff. We appreciate the attitude of service that Johnny presented to our team. We look forward to changes that will be brought on by regionalization!

Welcome Aboard

Lake Charles OJJ would like to extend a great big WELCOME to our new **Transport Officer Ronald "Dusty" Rhodes**.



Thanks for Years of Service

Congratulations to **PPOs Ronald Gilchrist, Rebecca Harmon** and **Alexis Heflin**, who recently celebrated another anniversary of their OJJ hire dates. In Lake Charles, we are proud of our rare turn-over of staff, and our many years of experience within this office!

Training Presented

Lake Charles OJJ enjoyed a presentation and training on **Coordinated Systems of Care (CSoC) Behavioral Interventions**. The office was complimented and recognized by **CSoC Liaison Jacqueline Page** and **DAS Karen Stubbs** for "asking good questions, some of the best questions asked in the state." All staff members participated and our understanding was strengthened through this overview.

Dr. Lawrence Dilks, psychologist, returned to the Lake Charles office to continue his training and presentation on the highly anticipated DSM-5, for mental illness. His humor is unique and the reactions to his jokes are just as hysterical. And, we learned a good bit too!

Thanks for Going the Extra Mile(s)

Kudos to **PPO Garrick Chambers, PPO Fred Fontenot** and **PPO Ronald Gilchrist** for making restorative justice efforts through continued basketball games at Boys Village.

PPO Jeff Haley met with **Marilyn Pickles** and **Charmaine Landry** of the Office of Behavioral Health, in hopes of inspiring the Cameron Parish Planning Board to begin meeting regularly again. They discussed methods each could do to inspire this collaboration. They are looking to assigning tasks to move from the discussion stage to the action stage. These meetings are missed in Cameron Parish, and kudos to Jeff and his team for trying to rekindle them.

Three sex offender safety contracts were recently drafted for non-secure youth to allow them to attend home passes and extracurricular activities. The youth, the parent, the facility, the PPO, and the sexual offender therapists had input into formulation of the safety plans. This contract serves as a shared vision and communicates clear expectations for the kids and their support systems.

Thank you to **Administrative Coordinator Erline Pierce** for learning a new role and doing all that she can to meet all the needs of our office. Erline is grateful and often sends thanks to recognize Lake Charles employees who frequently offer to cover the phone in her absence and for her lunch shift. She is our only remaining clerical staff person, so this is a team effort to cover these responsibilities.

PPO Monet Newman and **PPO Fred Fontenot** took clients **Malcolm G.** and **Tre B.** to lunch to reward the youth for their progress in Boys Village and high behavior points earnings. Several PPOs are noted to continue to reward good behavior at Boys Village with lunches, incentives and other rewards.

One humble PPO has given extraordinary service and volunteerism this month. She volunteered to make a proactive, preventative,

and diversion effort by speaking with a youth at BeauVer Alternative School, regarding his noncompliance with school officials. The youth was not under OJJ supervision. The officer is hoping he can be redirected and avoid juvenile justice system involvement. Her volunteerism is considered to be reliable, dependable, and helpful. And, she remained patient during the payroll clarification process for all of this extra service! Further, she volunteered to coordinate our office's monthly video conferences. She actively participates in the 36th Judicial District Court for unassigned cases. Thank you for this level of service and for being such an asset to our team.

Thank you to **Program Specialist Karli Pullard** who came forward during the staff meeting to plan for Hurricane Isaac, to volunteer to report for as many shifts as she could manage, in any of the three identified locations, Jetson Center for Youth, Southern University, and/or at the Amite Shelter. Karli was among the first to report to the identified locations, prior to the landfall of Hurricane Isaac. In the end, she cleared out the Southern University dorm to shut down Hurricane Isaac relief efforts, and she reported for shifts at Jetson and the Amite Shelter. Thank you, Karli!

Much appreciation to the Lake Charles OJJ staff for volunteering during Hurricane Isaac. Staff who worked at Jetson Center for Youth and at Southern University included **PPO Rebecca Harmon, Program Specialist Karli Pullard**. Thank you to **PPO Garrick Chambers, PPS Ken Vidrine, PPO Fred Fontenot** and **PPO Ronald Gilchrist**, who reported to work at the Amite Shelter and slept on cots or air mattresses to be available for the call of duty and beginning of their shifts. Thank you to **PPO Alexis Heflin, PPO Hollie Comeaux, and others** who all made preparations to volunteer, some of which actually required travel to the work site, but were relieved of their shift prior to beginning their supervision.

Lake Charles OJJ demonstrated patience, adaptability, volunteerism, dependability, empathy, and dedication. What a team! Further, all volunteers fulfilled all work requirements prior to reporting for extra shifts, so this also requires good planning and task-oriented skills. We cherish these desirable work ethic attributes that each of you possess and we are so grateful for positive attitudes.

PPS Melissa Cross felt appreciated recently, for thanks given during a recent phone conference for the Supervisory Training Committee. Further, she was recognized by the Beauregard Parish ADA, other Working Together for Families (WTF) representatives, and Dept. of Children and Family Studies (DCFS) staff for being the frequent OJJ representative during collaborations between our two agencies. Employees in the office expressed appreciation to Melissa for efforts made during Probation and Parole Appreciation Week and for celebrating new babies and personalizing recognition through office décor and signs! Heartwarming stuff!

PPO Rebecca Harmon received kudos this month for assisting a fellow officer with Calcasieu court. Further, Rebecca volunteered to be our office's CPR instructor and she is anxiously awaiting training dates.

Thanks to **PPO Garrick Chambers** for his recent Duty Officer response. He left his home and responded to Duty Officer obligations in the wee hours of the morning. He was dependable and he did not ask for assistance from others, as he knew it would not be hours that anyone would be eager to report to work. Thanks, Garrick, for reporting when you were needed.

PPO Alexis Heflin and two fellow probation officers conducted home visits outside of routine business hours. The emphasis was on varying locations of contacts and seeing kids in their homes, with their families, since most contacts have been made at school since the academic year began. This positive attitude and willingness to do extra is *modeling the*

way. **PPO Alexis Heflin, PPO Jeff Haley, and one other officer** also recently volunteered to conduct several after-hours transports. Our job is not always done by set hours. We had a late night hospitalization this month and several late admits to a shelter/placement facility. Some officers dropped in on secure care kids on furlough, to show their concern and to maintain accountability through random home visits. When officers work together to fulfill tasks and assist one another (without expecting overtime compensation), the true meaning of teamwork is realized.

PPS Ken Vidrine often *models the way* and sets expectations for state car maintenance. **PPOs Garrick Chambers, Rebecca Harmon, Ronald Gilchrist, Jeff Haley and Fred Fontenot** are the most frequent volunteers to assist PPS Vidrine in bringing the cars to and from the Louisiana State Police's repair shop.

PPOs Monet Newman and Rebecca Harmon both received recognition for taking time to wash state vehicles at a local car wash to fight the "War on Love Bugs"! We have heard that Louisiana has four seasons just as the rest of the states do. But in Louisiana, we don't experience Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Our seasons are Football Season/Love Bug Season; Crawfish Season; Mardi Gras Season and Hunting Season! Thank goodness "Love Bug Season" is over and bring on football season!

Gratitude is extended to our office's **Training Coordinator** who planned and led a full-day of annual training in September, and thank you to all those who contributed breakfast items to enjoy before and during the training. A great deal of preparation was evident by the smooth efficiency of our day. Her professionalism set the tone for training, and she *modeled the way* for the pace of the day. Both **PPS Melissa Cross** and **our training coordinator** prepared PowerPoint presentations for annual training topics. Further, we extend our gratitude to **Social Worker Claude Devillier** of Lafayette OJJ,

who visited our office to conduct mandatory training on the subject of LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Intersex).

On a Saturday in September (a beloved "off" day of the week for most of us), **two OJJ representatives** volunteered their time and service to participate in S.P.I.C.Y. (Suicide Prevention Initiative for Children & Youth)'s coalition. This event was held to raise community awareness and to raise money for more prevention efforts. The two volunteers made posters, set up tables, and assisted those who visited the SPICY Registration Table. Through this event, approximately \$1700 was raised locally for suicide awareness and to continue the prevention efforts. Thanks, and job well done.

Thank you to **PPOs Monet Newman, Rebecca Harmon**, and our other **Master SAVRY Trainer** who completed the pre-training discussion and work prior to offering our SAVRY Booster Training. The training was effective, concise and beneficial.

PPO Rebecca Harmon volunteered to be our office's CPR Instructor. Thanks to Rebecca for taking on this responsibility.

Thank you to **PPO Monet Newman**, who commonly provides assistance to translate the OJJS (Parish Probation)'s Face Sheets and History of Adjudications and Court actions.

PPS Melissa Cross attended McNeese University's Fall Career Fair to represent Lake Charles OJJ. Melissa spoke to many students and alumni who are interested in our field and in our agency. The number of college-degreed people seeking a professional job is eye-opening and increases one's gratitude for the jobs we are blessed to have. Melissa noted that we do not have openings at this time in this local office, but referred interested people to LA Careers and the OJJ website for postings in other parts of the state. Volunteers and potential interns were also recruited. In addition to networking and

positive public relations we continue to meet an ACA (American Correctional Association) accreditation requirement through routine participation at this university event.



Above, Lake Charles OJJ's booth at the MsNeese Career Fair, and below, visitors to the booth.



A **Lake Charles Probation Officer** saw a former client who shared her success story. Our former client is now in her last semester of nursing school. The former probation officer was proud to hear of this success! We take ownership in our kids and it is the successes that motivate us to keep going!

PPS Melissa Cross, PPO Jeffery Haley and two other Lake Charles OJJ staff members attended the Beauregard Parish Planning Board to hear the presentation for the "Save the Courthouse" mission. The courthouse is in extreme need of updates. OJJ will benefit too, if the conditions of the historic Courthouse are improved. Best of luck to **District Attorney David Burton (the recipient of OJJ's 2011 Champion of Change Award)** and his team in this endeavor.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **PPO Jeff Haley** on promotions within his local Mason District and for his volunteerism with the Shrine. Jeff just recently participated in his first Shriner's Circus as a part of the Shriner's Clown Unit.



On September 4 **PPO Angela Stevens** (a.k.a. "Nan Nan") celebrated the birth of her second granddaughter, **Aubri Shay**

Hallman, the daughter of Angela's daughter and son-in-law **Scott and Brandi Hallman**.

Angie was present to support her daughter, Brandi, as she became a first-time mother. Angie's beautiful, first-born granddaughter, (almost 4 year old) **Adalie** was also present for Aubri's BIRTH-day! Adalie is the proud older cousin, and in the photo, she is holding her new baby cousin like a baby doll! So exciting!

Monroe Regional Office

Just a note to let you know that the employees of OJJ are always working toward the mission.

During a recent staff meeting, **RM Patty Newman** covered revised policies and discussed the Interstate Compact on Juveniles process. In addition, **PPO3 Jennifer Bible** reviewed the PREA policy, and **PPO3 Willie Hunter** covered Ethics for Public Employees.

Emergency Response Team Trains, Gets a Workout

PPS Orlando Davis and **PPO3 Gary Hunter** attended an Emergency Response Team meeting held at Swanson. Participants took

part in an escape scenario. Emergency Response Team Members were later called on to assist during Hurricane Isaac. **PPS Orlando Davis** and **PPO3s Gary Hunter, Willie Hunter, Patrick Cooper, Jackie Kindrix** and **Erica Hollingsworth** joined Response Team Members from across the state to provide assistance and security in the storm's aftermath. **RM Patty Newman** appreciates her officers who went above and beyond and responded to the needs of the Agency.

Community Service Events

A Back to School Bash was held at Union Central Elementary School in Kelly, Louisiana, sponsored by local businesses, churches and Masonic Lodges. Sponsors included St. Joe Baptist Church and the **Rev. Vernon Foy, JJS** at Swanson Center for Youth; Columbia Lodge #213 and Swanson **Program Coordinator John Preston**, the Lodge's Worshipful Master; and 14th Masonic District Prince Hall Association/Monroe OJJ **PPS Orlando Davis**, the Association Assistant District Deputy Grand Master. A program was held in honor of the students, parents and educators. **PPS Orlando Davis** was the guest speaker for the program. He spoke about the necessity for students, parents, and educators to work together to ensure the success of the students. School supplies were donated to students and families. Refreshments were served.

Staff from Monroe OJJ attended the 32nd Annual Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice in Baton Rouge. **RM Patty Newman** was joined by **Program Specialist Walteree Barnes, PPS Gail Wilson, PPO3 Willie Hunter, PPO3 Gary Hunter** and **PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth**. They attended various workshops throughout the three-day conference. The opening session presentation by **Mr. Glen Ward** was especially enjoyable. Mr. Ward spoke on Southern Justice: Reflections on Growing Up in a South Carolina Minister's Home. He was

entertaining and inspirational. During the conference, we also had a chance to share dinner with **Dr. Mary Livers** and other OJJ staff at Drusilla's Restaurant. It's always good to get together with OJJ 'family' from across the state.

PPS Linda Williams Retires After 39 Years

OJJ will truly miss our most recent retiree. **PPS Linda Williams** retired after 39 years of service with OJJ. Linda came to work for OJJ straight out of high school, and never left. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement from NLU while working for OJJ. Linda worked her way up from a clerical position to supervisor. She served as the Placement Unit Supervisor prior to Service Coordination. She later served as a Field Supervisor. Some of her extra duties at the time of her retirement included Transport Coordinator, ACA Coordinator, Mentor Program Supervisor, and submitting the weekly FINS Report. Monroe OJJ staff honored Linda at a retirement dinner held at the Warehouse Restaurant. Linda was presented with a retirement plaque by **RM Patty Newman**, and numerous other gifts from her fellow OJJ family members. It has been a joy and honor to work with Linda for all these years. A lot of knowledge walked out the door when she retired. We miss her so much, but wish her all the best. She deserves it!



PPS Linda Williams was presented with a plaque honoring 39 years of service to OJJ. PPS Gail Wilson looks on.

PPO3 Janice Wheelis Retires

PPO3 Janice Wheelis has retired with 22 years of OJJ service. A retirement reception was held at the Monroe OJJ office. Coworkers, family, and friends joined to congratulate Janice and wish her well. She will be greatly missed!



Above, Janice cutting her cake, and below, opening gifts from staff and friends.



Above, Matt Robinson of the Johnny Robinson Boys Home came by to congratulate Janice on her retirement. Below, Janice, left, visits with PPO3 Jackie Kindrix, PPS Margo Corulla of Tallulah OJJ and newly-retired PPS Linda Williams of Monroe OJJ.



Congratulations Keyes 2



A baby shower was held for **PPO3 Cheryl Keyes** and **PPO3 Jeremy Keyes** at the Monroe OJJ Office. Cheryl and Jeremy were showered with gifts and good wishes. Little **Miss Abigail Keyes** will be the best dressed baby girl in Monroe. Abigail Keyes was born to PPO3s Jeremy and Cheryl Keyes on September 18. Congratulations Jeremy and Cheryl...she is beautiful! Baby Abigail is Daddy's Little Louisiana Tech Bulldog.

Trainings Attended

PPO3 Steve Pelfrey recently attended training on "Orientation to the Use of Family Team Meetings" provided by DCFS. The featured speaker was **Paul Vincent** from the Child Welfare Policy and Practice Group in Montgomery, AL. Steve shared some of the goals and outcomes of this initiative with staff at our monthly staff meeting.

PPS Orlando Davis attended training on "Hate Groups and Extremists" presented by the Regional Organized Crime Information Center. Orlando learned about sovereigns, who anti-government extremists, and hate groups, as well as techniques to look for clues in identifying members of these groups.

RM Patty Newman and **PPS Gail Wilson** attended a CPTP Training at ULM entitled "Dealing with Change." PPS Orlando Davis and PPS Karl Wallace completed CPTP Training on "Addressing Emotions at Work" and "Principles & Qualities of Genuine Leadership", also held at ULM.

Monroe OJJ staff recently completed a SAVRY training conducted by **PPO3s Hannah Dozier** and **Cheryl Keyes**.

RM Patty Newman and **PPS Gail Wilson** attended a presentation on Functional Family Therapy (FFT) sponsored by The Center for Children and Families. FFT is a short-term evidenced-based program that The Center for Children and Families is adding to its available services.

OJJ CSoc Liaison Jacqueline Page and **DAS Karen Stubbs** from Central Office visited Monroe OJJ to provide information on the Coordinated System of Care (CSoc). Officers were able to ask questions and discuss issues. We appreciate Jacqueline and Karen for their time and support.

PPS Gail Wilson joined training coordinators from across the state for a staff development meeting at Central Office, led by **Director of Staff Development Fran Martin**.

RM Patty Newman recently attended a Juvenile Justice Forum held at Louisiana Tech in Ruston. Attendees at this regional consensus meeting discussed findings and recommendations of the Models for Change initiative in Louisiana.

POST Firearms Instructor Jennifer Bible re-qualified **PPS Orlando Davis**, **PPO3 Patrick Cooper**, **PPO3 Jeremy Keyes**, **PPO3 Joel McNair**, **PPO2 Garner Brass**, **PPO3 Willie Hunter** and **PPS Gail Wilson**.

PPS Karl Wallace trained Monroe OJJ staff on Radio Usage, Use of Interventions, Officer Safety, and Use of Force. **PPO3 Gary Hunter** trained staff on Transporting Offenders.

PPS Gail Wilson recently conducted the 3rd quarter training committee meeting. Attending were **RM Patty Newman**, **PPS Karl Wallace**, **PPO3 Jennifer Bible**, **PPO2 Jeremy Fox**, **PPO3 Willie Hunter** and **PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth**.

Natchitoches Regional Office Congratulations

**August Employee of the Month
and New Grandpa!**

PPO3 Stanley Cook



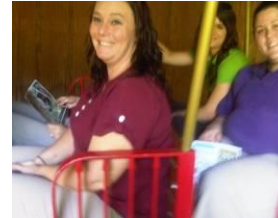
September Employee of the Month

PPO2 Brenda Sarpy



AC4 Wendy Crow and AC3 Monica Breedlove attended the Office of Group Benefits meeting in Alexandria to discuss upcoming changes and open enrollment.

WAE Transport Officers **Megan Smith** and **Rachal Martin**, **PPO3 Ashley Meacham**, **PPO2 Deanna Williams** along with staff members from Ware Youth Center, accompanied five secure care girls to the Alexandria Zoo.



Resident Advisors of Ware Youth Center, and Transport Officers Rachal Martin and Magen Smith.



PPO2 Deanna Williams and Ware Resident Advisor Ann Williams along with Ware youth. Below, a resident of the zoo.



Happy Birthday to **PPO2 Chris Wyatt**, **PPO2 Brenda Sarpy** and **PPO3 Stanley Cook**.



Brenda Sarpy, Chris Wyatt and Stanley Cook.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Employee of the Month

PPO Roosevelt Johnson Jr. was chosen

September employee of the month. Aside from covering all of his required duties as an officer, Roosevelt volunteered to drive to Huntsville, Alabama along with **PPO Douglas Black** to pick up a runaway youth for transport back to New Orleans.



In addition, during chaos in the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac, Roosevelt worked an overnight shift at an emergency shelter set up at Amite High School. He has demonstrated on numerous occasions that he is willing to help out any way he can to accomplish the agency's mission. Congratulations to PPO Roosevelt Johnson, and keep up the good work.



Congratulations to **PPO3 Douglas Black**, who was selected Probation Officer of the month for October. Douglas was chosen after he volunteered to work Emergency Shelter Assistance

during Hurricane Isaac at Amite High School. He was one of the first PPOs to respond when the call went out for assistance at the shelter.

OJJ staff would like to extend a big congratulation to **PPO3 Shawn Herbert**, who received her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Loyola University in New Orleans in August. We are very proud of you on this accomplishment.

Special Thanks



Many thanks to **PPO Douglas Black**, left, and **PPO Roosevelt Johnson Jr.**, right, for stepping up to the plate in August and volunteering to transport one of our juveniles being held in custody in Huntsville, Alabama, back to New Orleans.

The round trip travel time for this transport took approximately 18 hours. This is yet one more example of the team work exemplified by Region I staff and their commitment to the agency's mission.

Congratulations to OJJ Youth

Youth Everett G., supervised by **PPO3 Shawn Hebert**, recently earned his GED. He has been on probation since 2009 and has had some ups and downs, having been in both non-secure and secure care. He came home from secure care in May and said that he was determined not to go back. Now that he has his GED his goal is to work on getting into college and finding employment. Great job!

Youth Yazmene recently returned home from non-secure placement after successfully completing the LA Mentor Program. This past summer, she successfully completed NOPLAY's Summer Scholars Program. She also recently passed the test to earn her GED. In September her case was terminated early by her judge and Yazmene is considering enlisting in the military or enrolling in college for the spring.

Knowledge is Power

Program Specialist Paulette Carter and **PPOs Daria Melder and Austin Johnson** attended an interactive training session conducted by Families Helping Families. The training session was designed to help participants improve their understanding of the special education process so they can become more actively involved in the development of the Individualized Education Plan for their clients. The information gathered in this training will assist officers in field services to be more hands-on in the process, ensure that the clients' educational needs are addressed, and help mediate on behalf of parents who may require assistance in this area. The training created an opportunity to work together for improved educational results for children under OJJ supervision.

New Orleans Positive Incentive for Youths

The New Orleans Office Social Worker has implemented a Positive Incentive Intervention Room for youth in the community who continually strive to improve holistically in behavior, academics and treatment. The youth are allowed to select an item of their choice once they have made improvement, noted by staff and their parents.

The staff and Regional Manager continue to support programming activities for our youth within the community. Thank you to everyone who participates in the effort to meet the treatment needs of our youth.

Congratulations

On October 10 **PPO Vera Seals and her husband, Leroy Seals, Jr.** celebrated their 25th Silver Wedding Anniversary. Leroy and Vera were high school sweethearts who met at Warren Easton Senior High School in New Orleans. They are blessed with two beautiful daughters, Leianna and Lacey. Both Vera

and Leroy are thankful to God for allowing them to reach this milestone in their lives.

Shreveport Regional Office

PPO1 Jacquelle Dixon, PPO1 Latoya Sherman and **PPO1 Jason Brown** attended the Governors Conference.

Jarred Cram was recently promoted to PPO3.

PPS Terri Harber's grandchild was born August 13. Dean Joseph Harber weighed in at 7 lbs., 11 oz. and was 19 inches long.

PPS Terri Harber, PPO3 Kristen McKee and **PPO3 Jennifer Hill** attended CPTP training "Effective Job Interviewing."

DAS Karen Stubbs and CSoc Liaison Jacqueline Page visited Shreveport OJJ for a training session on with Magellan.



Rutherford House had a dog training with Partners program held by ALA Johnson-Arends. **Administrative Coordinator 3 Karen Smith** attended with her dog. Pictured is Karen's cutie pie, Teddy, getting a massage at Rutherford House Obedience Dog Training. "Go figure,

the dog gets pampered with a massage and his owner has never had one! Something is wrong with this picture, don't you think?" Karen said.

We celebrated several birthdays recently. **PPS Rick Ladner, PPO1 Sterling Newsom, PPO1 Bruce Parsee, PPS Guy May, Administrative Coordinator 3 Niki Anderson, PPO3 Jarred Cram** and **PPO3 Sandy Ersoff**.

Swanson Center for Youth

RSAT Graduation

The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program held its annual graduation. After the graduation, a reception was held and refreshments were served. Graduates were Javaria T., Byron O., Dakota W., Markerius C., Quintavius D., Ryan H., Antonio J., Ricky S., Master L., John M., Jeremy P., Deuntray H., Terrance H., Troy B., Brandon K., Carlos R., Derrick H., Jimmy C., Coby O., Rashad P., Joel S., Robert C., Brad J. and Damion C. Congratulations, graduates!



Youth Brandon K. and Program Coordinator John Preston at the RSAT graduation.



Youth Quintavius D. and Social Service Counselor Charles Kline at the RSAT graduation.

Governor's Conference

Youth from the Swanson choir had the opportunity to perform at the 2012 Governor's Conference for Juvenile Justice along with youth from Jetson and Bridge

City. SCY youth were joined by **Rev. Ricky James**, **CCS Administrative Assistant LaShonda Reece** and **Social Service Counselor Alma Holmes**. The choir is pictured below.



Women's Conference Attended

The Women Working in Corrections conference was held in Little Rock, Arkansas in September. **Swanson staff who attended were JJS4 Patricia Harris, JJS5 Julia Jackson, Program Manager Jan James and Social Service Counselor Dusty Teer**. Staff attended sessions regarding issues, concerns and education for women working in corrections. The conference was not just about educational training; staff also enjoyed a tour of the Clinton Presidential Library and a shrimp boil with a live band.



Attending the women in corrections conference were PPS Donna Desoto of Alexandria OJJ, PM Jan James, JJS Julia Jackson, SSC Dusty Teer and JJS Patricia Harris.

ERT Mock Drill Held

The Swanson Emergency Response Team conducted a mock drill to prepare in the event of an escape. **ERT Commander JJS Debra McGee** arranged the drill, which involved the ERT team and members of the Monroe OJJ Response Team. **JJS Lynell Williams**, who played the part of the escaped youth, was hiding on the farm **when apprehended by JJS Lee Antwine, JJS Donnie Adams, PPO Orlando Davis and PPO Gary Hunter**. The whole team learned a lot during the drill and the “youth” was apprehended in 25 minutes.



The ERT Command Post. Staff from multiple disciplines at the Command Post for the ERT mock drill.



JJS Lee Antwine, JJS Donnie Adams, JJS Lynell Williams, PPO Orlando Davis and PPO Gary Hunter after apprehending the “youth” during the ERT mock drill.

Trip to Washington

Social Service Counselor Jerome Dixon made a trip to Washington, D.C. and while at the airport he had a chance to meet with **Martin Luther King III** and **Mr. Dick Gregory**, pictured below.



Martin Luther King III, SSC Jerome Dixon and Dick Gregory.

Southside High Holds Staff Development for Teachers

A staff development program for the teachers was very well received by everyone who attended. Principal Will Lee said, “The staff are really buying in to the Larry Bell program. The energy level is high, the staff really enjoyed it. **Director Vickie Shoecraft** attended, and she was just as hyped up as the teachers. Everyone was delighted to have her drop by and participate. I know where I can find a good substitute if we are ever short. We will call Ms. Vickie. Thanks for supporting us in this staff development.”

Director Shoecraft said, “It was a joy on my part to be so included and accepted in the teacher corps. The instructor called on me for a science question and was surprised to know I had the correct answer. It was a blast being with them.”

Director of Education Kim Mims said, "The work that Principal Lee and his staff are doing speaks volumes about the opportunities that they all are providing for our youth! Kudos! Keep the energy level high and keep up the excellent work!"

ASVAB Presentation

Instructor Teicha Woods invited **Sgt. Gann** to speak to youth about the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test.



Sgt. Gann addresses the class, below, joined by MEPS Educational Specialist James Sanders.



Several officers enjoyed attending the Governor's Conference in Baton Rouge.

Birthday wishes went out to **Administrator Coordinator Sherri Mathews**. Everyone enjoyed the celebration with cake and ice cream.



Tallulah OJJ bid farewell to one of our officers, **PPO Truett Glass**. We hate to lose PPO Glass, but he is staying in the OJJ family and transferring to Hammond OJJ. Everyone is sad to see him leave Tallulah, but we all wish him and his family the very best as

they make their move to their new home. A luncheon was prepared in his honor, *pictured below*, with **PPO Kim Green's** specialty of baked chicken wrapped in bacon and cheese, green beans, and hash brown potato casserole. For dessert, everyone enjoyed cake and ice cream in celebration of our birthday honorees, **PPOs Jena McCattry and Dramian Crockett** and **Transport Officer Huey George**.

Tallulah Regional Office

Tallulah OJJ completed several training sessions and covered policy reviews. We completed training on the SAVRY and Office Equipment and Safety.

PPO Truett Glass and **PPO Kim Green** participated in the SAVRY Booster training held via phone conference.





AC3 Martha Hattaway's son took these pictures near Saline Lake, Saline, LA. Above, a water lily. And below, a yellow lily.



Thibodaux Regional Office

Thibodaux OJJ would like to wish a warm welcome to our **Regional Director, Susan Miller**. We are looking forward to working with Ms. Miller. Welcome aboard.

Congratulations

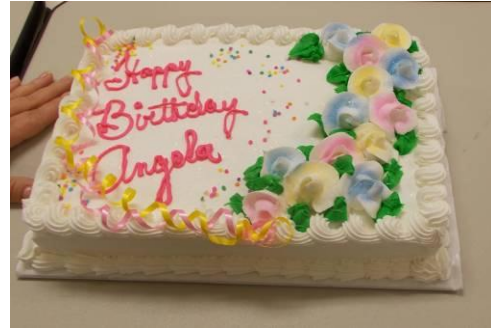
Employees of the Month

PPO3 Eddie Fannin was chosen Employee of the Month for August. **PPO3 Keith Kotoski** is Employee of the Month for October. They are both valuable assets to our team here in Thibodaux.

PPO3 Tracy Theriot reported that he received donations to purchase a GED Practice & Instructional Manual with accompanying CD,

for Youth Austin C., so he could study for the GED exam. Youth, Austin C., was extremely appreciative of receiving it.

Thibodaux OJJ Office celebrated **RM Angela T. Koenig's** birthday by presenting her with a beautiful cake in honor of her birthday.



Continuing to live out the OJJ Mission...

PPO3 James Percle reports that **Youth Oscar R.** graduated from the Youth Challenge Program.

PPO3 Summer Ferreira reports that **Youths Nathan P. and Johnathan P.** made the Honor Roll for the 1st quarter of school.

PPO3s Keith Kotoski and Eddie Fannin attended the Youth Challenge Program graduation ceremonies. Eddie attended to support **Youth Trey H.** and Keith attended to support **Youths Mason H. and Jarrous M.** Eddie reported that his youth, Trey H., was also able to earn an early release from probation supervision.

SSC Reshonn Saul received donations from outside sources to help out a youth's family from the Thibodaux Region who lost their home during Hurricane Isaac. The roof blew off their trailer and the family was left with the items they had when they evacuated from the home before the storm. Items that were donated included clothing, school supplies, and personal hygiene products for **Youth Mikelra R.**, and her three siblings. They have

been staying between relatives' homes and hotels since being displaced from the home.



Receiving disaster assistance, from left, Ms. Richard, Mikelra's mother, Mikelra R., and SSC Reshonn Saul.

PPO3 Jeff Barrilleaux reported that a youth on his caseload was sleeping on the floor in his home. Jeff was able to seek assistance from Thibodaux Habitat for Humanity, which donated a bed for youth. Jeff and **PPO3 Tracy Theriot** loaded up the bed and delivered it to the youth's home in Larose.

Below, an autumn scene in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.



Above, an autumn scene in New Orleans - a butterfly visits a lantana bush in an urban garden in Mid City.

Relationship Advice

A note on relationship advice (pick one: personal, professional) from a retired psychologist:

When you find yourself in an endless round of arguments, belittling behavior, etc., try the following. It takes some courage to say, but it works. It stops the argument. Then, whoever says these words can blissfully go about their business, doing and thinking whatever they actually think is best.

**“You could be right.
I’ll have to think about it.”**



Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC
Recipe of the Month

It's my favorite time of the year - the trees are starting to change colors, the temperature is becoming more tolerable, it's getting close to the time of year when we celebrate the best holidays of the year. The recipes this month are great for parties or tailgating. Have a great month and remember if you have any requests for recipes or food questions please let me know at ronald.sonnier@la.gov . *C'EST SI BON!*



Warm Gumbo Dip

1/4 cup butter
 6 green onions, sliced
 2 celery ribs, diced
 1 cup chopped assorted bell peppers
 1 1/2 pounds peeled, large raw shrimp, chopped
 1 garlic clove, pressed

1 1/2 teaspoons Creole seasoning
 1 8-oz. package cream cheese
 3/4 cup sliced pickled okra
 1/2 cup plus 2 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
 Toasted French bread baguette slices

Preheat oven to 400°. Melt butter in a Dutch oven over medium heat; add green onions and next 2 ingredients. Cook, stirring occasionally, 6 to 8 minutes or until peppers are tender. Stir in shrimp and next 2 ingredients; cook, stirring occasionally, 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low; add cream cheese, stirring until cheese is melted. Remove from heat, and stir in okra and 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese.

Spoon mixture into a 2-qt. baking dish, and sprinkle with remaining 2 Tbsp. cheese. Bake at 400° for 25 to 30 minutes or until bubbly and lightly browned. Sprinkle with parsley. Serve with toasted French bread slices.



Red Pepper Hummus

2 15-ounce cans chickpeas, rinsed and drained
3 garlic cloves
1/2 cup jarred roasted red bell peppers, drained
1/2 cup tahini
1/4 cup water

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper
1/3 to 1/2 cup fresh lime juice
Garnish: fresh flat-leaf parsley sprigs

Process first 9 ingredients and 1/3 cup lime juice in a food processor or blender until smooth, stopping to scrape down sides; add additional lime juice, if necessary, until desired consistency. Cover and chill until ready to serve. Garnish, if desired.



Boiled Peanuts

1 pound of raw "green" peanuts (not the color green, but fresh raw peanuts which are called green peanuts)

1/4 cup kosher salt (or 2 tbsp. table salt)

4 cups water

Optional seasoning: 2 tbsp. Old Bay Seasoning, smoked paprika, shrimp boil mix, or even star anise

Thoroughly rinse raw unshelled peanuts in water. Put water, salt, seasoning and peanuts in a large stockpot. Bring to a boil. Cover. Boil for 2 to 3 hours or longer (some boil their peanuts all day), until peanuts reach desired level of softness. Drain.

Eat up within a couple of days. Boiled peanuts don't save as well as dry.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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